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## REVIEWS.

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*The Hill Caves of Yucatan. A Search for Evidence of Man's Antiquity in the Caverns of Central America*, being an account of the Corwith Expedition of the Department of Archæology and Palæontology of the University of Pennsylvania. By HENRY C. MERCER. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company; 1896. 8vo., 183 pp., 1 map, 74 illustrations.

In the introduction attention is called to the important results of cave exploration in Europe, and the slight work previously done in America. Brief reference is made to the author's explorations in Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana, during the previous two years, and their uniform negative results, so far as evidence of a primitive race or great antiquity is concerned, although abounding in evidence of Indian occupation. It was hoped that the caves of Yucatan would afford decisive evidence. They were large and abundant; were open, light, dry, and accessible; were on or near the line of communication between the ruined cities of Uxmal, Labna, Mayapan, Ticul, Mani, and Chichenitza, and were during the dry season almost the only natural sources of water supply. "If ever human refuse layers on the floors of caverns were to reveal the conditions of a lost human chronology, such layers might be looked for in these caves, the first group of which existed, as we were told, at Calcehtok, and the second at Tabi, about half way on a straight line between Uxmal and Ticul."

About two months were spent in the search. Twenty-nine caves were visited, thirteen of which had archæological significance. "Six yielded valuable, and three decisive results." Human relics were found in abundance in the upper layers of the earthy floor of the caverns, but not in the lower layers (except as occasionally found in animal burrows). Of the fourteen feet of cave earth found resting on the solid limestone floor, in one of the most satisfactory excavations, only the upper six contained human relics, while the lower

eight feet gave no evidence of man, although yielding remains of animals to the bottom indicating the early accessibility of the cave. In general, the depth of cave earth was less than this. The human relics were abundant but not varied in kind and implied but one type of civilization. Potsherds were by far the most abundant, some decorated with incised lines and a few colored. Only a few implements were found. Human bones were occasionally present. Of the vertebrates identified by Professor Cope there were three batrachians, six reptiles, nine aves, and sixteen mammalia, thirty-three species in all. Members of each of these groups were found beneath the relic-bearing layer at depths varying from six to fourteen feet, twenty-two instances being tabulated. Of the shells, eleven species were identified by Pilsby; eight instances of occurrence below the human layer being tabulated. These data show abundantly the accessibility of the caves before the incursion of man.

The author's conclusions are: "*First*, That no earlier inhabitant had preceded the builders of the ruined cities in Yucatan.

"*Second*, That the people revealed in the caves had reached the country in geologically recent times.

"*Third*, That these people, substantially the ancestors of the present Maya Indians, had not developed their culture in Yucatan, but had brought it with them from somewhere else." T. C. C.

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*New Evidence of Glacial Man in Ohio.* By PROFESSOR G. FREDERICK WRIGHT. Appleton's Popular Science Monthly, December 1895.

The "fresh discovery recently brought to light," which constitutes the subject of this article, is, in reality, a discovery made more than three years ago. It therefore antedates the recent controversy respecting the evidence of glacial man in America which the author revives and makes his point of departure, and on which he strives to bring to bear this evidence as something recent. The central point of that controversy was the untrustworthiness of the old methods of observing and interpreting the supposed evidence of glacial man. The sharp criticisms which provoked it were sorely needed, as the event has shown, to reform the loose methods then prevailing. This "fresh discovery" belongs to the ante-reform period, and is to be weighed accordingly.